

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 10, 2011

Agenda Item: City of Glendive Deer Management Action Plan

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Proposed Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

In 2003 the Montana Legislature authorized cities to create plans to control wildlife to address public health and safety within city limits. Such plans must be approved by the FWP Commission. In response to concerns and complaints expressed by its citizens concerning the growing population of "urban" deer, and the increased risk to human safety and property damage, the City of Glendive, in conjunction with FWP, has developed a Deer Management Action Plan. The plan lays out goals, actions needed to meet goals and a management process. The plan is patterned after plans already approved for the communities of Colstrip and Ekalaka. Public hunting, restricted to archery within the incorporated city limits, is the primary tool to manage urban deer numbers. "Open Space" areas owned by the city, within the city limits and where public hunting can occur, have been identified. A process has been set up to: 1) incorporate private open space property owners who voluntarily wish to participate in the deer management program, and 2) involve public hunters in the deer management program.

Public Involvement Process & Results

In response to urban deer complaints, public meetings attended by with concerned citizens, members of the Glendive City Council and FWP were held in October 2009 and August 2010. A Committee Hearing of the City Council followed on Nov. 10 to discuss the development of a deer management action plan. The Dawson County Commissioners and the Dawson County Sheriffs have been contacted in regards to the plan and are signatories to the plan. Public comment on any FWP Commission adoption would run through 5 p.m., March 21 with any final adoption taking place at the FWP Commission's meeting in April.

Alternatives and Analysis

The City of Glendive has been proactive in developing a management plan that is both reasonable and effective. The city has sought FWP participation and has collaborated with FWP on plan development. Alternatives would include reworking the plan to include adjustments to address issues that may be identified.

Proposed Motion

I move the FWP Commission adopt the proposed City of Glendive Deer Management Action Plan as presented.